

to push us down that road which we have been traveling for the last several decades of open-ended programs with entitlements to individuals and no ability of Congress to check it.

We have a program now that works. We have substantially improved that program in the private sector. We have imposed costs and fees on the banks, guarantors, and lenders that have helped us in our budget savings without imposing additional restrictions on students.

Frankly, it is a pretty good deal for America, to be able, when you send your children to school, to borrow funds at no interest, use those funds to pay college costs, and then have an extended repayment period after graduation where you are not even paying interest on the use of the funds for the entire time that you are in school, plus in a 6-month period of time after graduation from school.

Now, I do not know if there are many better deals in America. If there are, I would like to know about them.

And so I think we ought to deal with the facts and not the political rhetoric. We ought to recognize that we have in place an extraordinarily generous program to help parents who need the help and students who need the help in providing funds to pay for their college costs.

A program which allows you to borrow at zero interest for your entire time in school and then gives you a generous 10-year or more repayment program where the interest does not even begin to run on the amount that you have borrowed until 6 months after you have graduated, give you time to go out and look for employment so that you can begin to pay back these loans, is a pretty generous program. At a time when we are facing a substantial budget crisis, are attempting to bring fiscal responsibility to the Federal Government, at this historic moment when we hope to finally once and for all balance the budget, this is more than a reasonable proposition.

So I hope that the conferees in deciding what the final composition of the Balanced Budget Act will look like and in negotiating with the President understand what the House and Senate have come up with in terms of the student loan program is more than reasonable, does not impose additional costs on students, does not reduce the amount of loans available to those students, and simply is the way we ought to proceed.

Mr. President, I thank you for the time. Whatever time I have remaining I yield back.

Mr. EXON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska is recognized for up to 5 minutes.

Mr. EXON. An inquiry of the Chair. I assume we are in morning business. Is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. EXON. I thank the Chair.

REV. RICHARD HALVERSON

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, passage of a wonderful, gifted and true Christian gentleman, former Senate Chaplain Richard Halverson, has left another void in our society and great sadness to this friend of his. My wonderful wife, Pat and I always felt Dick Halverson was one of God's greatest gifts to us and our spiritual well-being. He never let us down, and he always built us up.

The Christian glow of Chaplain Halverson, like a strobe light in the dark or a beacon in the storm and fog, shone brightly always and will everlastingly. Few have attained or maintained the mission of what obviously was God's wisdom and compassion in creating and sending forth among us poor sinners this giant workman for faith and good.

I knew him well years before he was called upon to be the spiritual leader of the Senate. Way back in the early 1970's, when I first met this man, I correctly sensed, when he came to Nebraska to lead us in a Governors' Christian retreat, his devotion and his unique ability to spread our Maker's message of peace and love and understanding.

While he is gone from us in this life, and we will miss him, the light and glow of Richard Halverson does not even flicker. It is brighter than ever. For this wonderful man, who has been taken from us and from his family, we issue condolences to that great family of Richard Halverson, but we commit to continue his gentle but most effective teachings that he has left all of us for the betterment of mankind. God bless my brother, Richard Halverson.

I thank the Chair and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Georgia [Mr. NUNN], is recognized for up to 25 minutes. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended sufficient time to accommodate my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

A MAN DEARLY LOVED, REV.  
RICHARD HALVERSON

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I first wish to express my gratitude to the Senator from Nebraska for his fine comments on Reverend Halverson, a man we all dearly loved. There was a beautiful and wonderful memorial service to him in the Senate caucus room this week where not only Senators but, more importantly, Senate family—policemen, people working in the dining room, doorkeepers—expressed their profound appreciation for the life and example of this wonderful, wonderful disciple of God. I will be making more complete remarks, and I will also, at a later point, insert in the RECORD some of the remarks made at his memorial service so that all Senators can read them.

I certainly join at this juncture with my friend from Nebraska and thank him for his poignant and very appropriate observation about this dear brother who meant so much to this body and the entire Senate family.

#### DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, before I speak on my frustrations with the War Powers Act and relate some of the most recent debate on Bosnia and most recent deployment of American military forces, I would like to say there was an article in the Washington Times this morning in effect saying I had declared all-out war in an effort to lobby Senators to defeat the Defense authorization conference report.

Mr. President, just for clarification, I will vote against the conference report. I worked very hard with Senator THURMOND and with other members of the committee to get a bill that would not only be something that I could support but also, more importantly, that the President would sign. I am afraid we do not have that kind of product coming in the conference report. But I have informed the Democratic Cloakroom and the Democratic leadership that I wish to cooperate fully with Senator THURMOND in getting this conference report before the Senate. I certainly will do everything I can to get a time agreement for a reasonable period for debate where people can express their views both ways, for and against this bill. I will do everything I can to persuade other Senators not to have extended debate. I have no intent of trying to keep this bill from going to the President for his final decision, whether he signs it or whether he does not sign it.

This article also said I was busy laying some kind of strategy to defeat the bill and lobbying Republican Senators and that I was trying to get out in front of Chairman THURMOND and defeat this bill.

Mr. President, I have not asked a single Senator to vote against this bill. I do not intend to lobby against the bill. I intend to state my views as to why I cannot support the bill. The conference report speaks for itself. There are some people who will be for it, some opposed to it. This article is right out of the whole cloth. I do not know how reporters are able to make these kinds of reports to the public without any check whatsoever with the people they are purporting to report on, in this case me.

It is true that I said I would vote against the bill. It is true that I laid out some of the reasons in a press release. It is not true that I am trying to impede the bill and its progress. It is not true that I am launching any kind of all-out effort to defeat the bill. It is my view that the bill will pass.

It will have, I think, majority support. It will have support from people, I am sure, from both sides of the aisle. So, I wanted to clarify my view on this.